

What is claimed is:

1. A method for comparing a first object and a second object in an object-oriented operating system comprising the steps of:

(a) determining whether the first object is equal to the second object;

(b) obtaining one or more methods from said first object and said second object if said objects are not equal;

(c) determining whether the one or more methods from said first object are equal to the one or more methods from said second object; and

(d) recursively performing steps (b) and (c) until there are no more methods to decompose.

2. A method in accordance with claim 1 further including the step of:

(e) generating a document comprising the differences between methods.

3. A method in accordance with claim 2 wherein step (b) further comprises storing names of said methods, step (c) comprises storing indicia representing the determination whether the methods are the same and step (e) comprises generating a document from said stored names and indicia.

4. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said object-oriented language comprises JAVA and step (a) comprises running an equality method on said objects.

5. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said object-oriented language comprises JAVA and step (c) comprises running an equality method on said objects.

6. A method in accordance with claim 2 further including the step of:

(f) transforming the document into human-readable form.

7. A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein human-readable form comprises XML.

8. A method in accordance with claim 6 wherein transforming the document into human-readable form comprises transforming the document into a web page.

9. A method in accordance with claim 1 wherein said object-oriented language comprises JAVA and step (b) comprises invoking the get...() methods of each object.

10. A method in accordance with claim 2 wherein defining a plurality of function items comprises defining a function for each of said plurality of function items.